



Irish-American Club News

Publication of the Irish-American Club of Mid-Michigan

October 2008

President's Message

HAPPY FALL!

By now you are probably in the swing of fall activities and so are we! Our new year begins in September, so we're off and running for another year of good times with good friends! Be sure to check our website for information about our events, happenings, gatherings and the latest "scoop".

Our **social meeting** is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Watch the website for specific plans for that night. Our **business meetings** are on the last Tuesday of the month at Gone Wired Café on Michigan Ave. (just east of the Green Door)

Many of us gather on Tuesdays at the Irish Pub on W. Saginaw for **darts**, and sometimes dinner. **Irish Language** classes will begin the first week

of November on Monday nights. **Irish History Discussions** will begin in January (2009) on Thursday evenings. Our own Pierce Kent will be teaching both of those. More specifics on those will be posted on the website, or give us a call at 800-743-9457.

We'll have a table at the Meridian Historical Village for the **Meridian Heritage Festival** on **Sat, Oct. 4**. There will be Irish dancing, music, food and us! Hope to see you there.

Some of our members volunteered at the **Great Lakes Feis** in August, enjoyed a **picnic** at Lake Lansing Park, and traveled to **Bridget Gallagher's** in Fowlerville to listen and watch as **Philip Gray** shared his painting talent during a wine and cheese reception.

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Irish-American Club of Mid-Michigan
2023 N Fairview
Lansing MI 48912
800-743-9547
irishmidmich@yahoo.com

October Social Meeting

**Tuesday, October 14th
7:00 pm**

**Library Room at Dublin
Square Pub, Abbott Rd,
East Lansing**

Topic:

An "Irish Book Fair"

Bring along your favorite books from or about Ireland or about the Irish in America to discuss, share, or even lend if you're so inclined.

Watch the website for more information about November's meeting.

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This month's recipe

Cauliflower In All It's Glory

- 1 Cauliflower in salted water
- 1 oz butter or oleo
- 1 oz flour
- 2 C milk
- 2 oz chopped almonds
- 1 egg yolk sieved
- Finely chopped parsley

Cut cauliflower into 4-6 pieces & cook in salted water until tender.

Put cauliflower into bowl with heads arranged downwards. The bowl should be give enough to hold the cauliflower. Keep warm.

Melt butter or oleo, add flower & cook for 1 minute.

Gradually add the liquid, bring to a boil, season to taste & add chopped almonds.

Upturn bowl on a small serving dish so the florets are set upwards.

Garnish with sieved egg yolk and parsley. Spoon a little sauce over cauliflower. Pour remaining sauce into a sauce boat and serve hot. Serves 4.

From "An Irish Farmhouse Cookbook"

Thomas Davis, poet of the Young Ireland movement and author of "A Nation Once Again"

By Pierce Kent:

"We thought you would not die-
we were sure you would not go
And leave us in our utmost need
to Cromwell's cruel blow-
Sheep without a shepherd,
when the snow shuts out the sky-
O! Why did you leave us Eoghan?
Why did you die?"

These lines are from "Lament for the Death of Eoghan Ruadh O'Neill", by Thomas Davis, which happened to be a favorite of the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Eoghan Ruadh, or to use the anglicized form, Owen Roe was a nephew of Hugh O'Neill, the great Earl of Tyrone. The nephew was the victor against the English Army at the Battle of Benburb in 1646, and was later rumored to have been poisoned by an agent of the English. As a young fellow growing up in the foothills of County Dublin when radio was king, I would occasionally listen to the Thomas Davis lecture series on Radio Eireann when I wasn't playing ball or climbing trees. This would have been in the 1950s before the advent of television to Ireland. This series was the brainchild of T. W. Moody who along with F.X. Martin is a co-editor of the book our club used in the Irish History discussion group sessions earlier this year and the Thomas Davis Lectures have been broadcast continuously on Radio Eireann for over 50 years. Various topics of cultural interest are expounded on by guest lecturers and the longevity of the lecture series says a lot for its continuing popularity.

T.W. Moody came up with the name of the lecture series because of his admiration for Davis as a writer, patriot and cultural nationalist. Thomas Osborn Davis was born on the 24th October 1814, in Mallow, County Cork into an Irish Protestant family. The family moved to Dublin when Thomas was 4 years old. In 1831 he entered Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied law, history and political philosophy. While at Trinity Col-

lege he would have encountered people who remembered the Irish rebels Wolfe Tone and Robert Emmet, both of whom had been Trinity College students in their time. Davis was called to the Irish Bar in 1837, but never took up the practice of law. By this time, he had espoused the idea of a "free and independent Ireland". As Auditor of the Dublin Historical Society he urged his audience to pursue these aims. After graduating from Trinity College, Davis had joined Daniel O'Connell's Repeal Association, which wanted to see the legislative Act of Union between Ireland and Britain repealed so that an Irish Parliament could sit again in College Green, Dublin. While Davis had great respect for O'Connell they did not agree on many issues and he abandoned the Repeal Association to form the Young Ireland Party in 1842 with others both Protestant and Catholic. A new generation of "physical force men" had appeared, whose aims and principles were that of the 1798 Rebellion. They vowed to establish an Ireland that united "Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter" in the words of the United Irishmen.

The Nation newspaper was founded in 1842 to convey the romantic nationalist ideals then in vogue throughout Europe. The first and last aim was "National Independence". Economic grievances would have to take a back seat. While they stood for the principles of Tone and the United Irishmen, Davis, John Mitchel, Gavan Duffy and most of the Young Irelanders drew their inspiration from far back in Ireland's Gaelic past. Thomas Davis died from tuberculosis at the age of 30 on September 16th 1845, just as the potato blight first appeared heralding the onset of the "Great Hunger". He did not live long enough to take part in the 1848 Young Ireland Rebellion, but while he lived, his writings influenced his contemporaries. After his death, subsequent generations of Irish nationalists lauded him as "their master", including Peadar Kirby, Arthur Griffith and John O'Leary.



Things (Irish) to do this fall . . .

The Irish-American Club is putting together a "road-trip" to the Gaelic League in Detroit for an evening of music, song and fun. **Call or email the club if you'd like to join the carpool!**

The Gaelic League, Irish-American Club in Detroit, in conjunction with the Metro-Detroit Irish Musicians community, will present this event on October 11th, 2008 at their fine venue at 2068 Michigan Avenue, just west of old Tiger Stadium. The evening commences at 8 p.m., and a suggested donation of \$15.00 is fitting.

Heading up the evening will be the popular Cork singer, and winner of the 2001 Thomas Moore Cup for solo Irish tenor. **Paddy Homan**. He will be joined by **Wallace Hood**, Belfast balladeer and multi-instrumentalist from the well-known group The Irish Rovers.

Also appearing will be **Sean Gavin** uilleann piper and flutist from the newest super-group Bua, **Ray Maguire** and **Frank Kennedy** from the great Irish group popular in the 70s and 80s Pats People.

The evening will also feature 3 time all-Ireland harpist **Siobhan McKinney** and 2 time all-Ireland silver medalist, fiddler **Kelsey Lutz** who will be joined by winner of the 2007 and 2008 Michael Flatley Award fiddler Holland **Raper**.

Colin Paige drummer, guitarist and vocalist from the Windsor pipe band, **The Heinzman Dancers**, **Mick Gavin**, fiddler and teacher from County Clare, Ireland with son **Michael Gavin** (fiddle, banjo and guitar) and **Colleen Shanks** (flute whistles) will also be performing.

All proceeds to fund the Irish Radio Show.

Other events:

MERIDIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL – Saturday, October 4, 11-4pm. Irish dancers, music, food, IAC info table. Meridian Historical Village, Okemos. www.merhistvill.org

At Quinn & Tuite's in Grand Rapids:
1535 Plainfield NE
www.quinnandtuites.com

October 11	Conklin Ceili Band \$5
October 25	Brendan Loughrey \$10 from Donegal
November 8	Pat Broaders \$15

At Fenian's Irish Pub in Conklin
Downtown—can't miss it.
www.feniansirishpub.com

November 29	Stephen's Green \$16
December 16	Teada & Karen Casey \$30
November 8	Pat Broaders \$15

Of Note:

Ronnie Drew

of the Dubliners Irish band recently passed away. He was a true icon of the Irish music scene and his distinctive gravelly voice will be missed. He was known for such classics as "Seven Drunken Nights", "MacAlpine's Fusiliers" and "The Pub with no Beer". Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam (Irish for: may his soul be on God's right side).

Thomas Davis, Poet

by: Pierce Kent

(Continued from page 2)

In the three years Davis worked at *The Nation*, he wrote over 80 songs and ballads, along with numerous articles and essays. Of his songs, many will be familiar: "A Nation Once Again", "The West's Awake", "Clare's Dragoons" and "My Land". In 1843 a collection of the best works from the Nation was published under the title "The Spirit of the Nation" and in July of that year it was selling at the rate of a hundred copies a day which was significant in those days. During his life Davis thought it vitally important that the Anglicization of Irish culture be reversed. He declared that "a people without a language are only half a nation". This is close to the Irish saying "Tír gan teanga tír gan anam" (a country without a language is a country without a soul) which adorns the back of T-shirts sold by the Irish traditional group the Fuchsia Band. Davis is rightly hailed as both the father of Irish cultural nationalism and as one of Ireland's greatest patriots. I will end with a few lines from my late father's favorite song "The West's Awake":

"For often, in O'Connor's van,
To triumph dashed each Connacht clan.
And fleet as deer the Normans ran
Thro' Corrsliabh Pass and Ardahan;
And later times saw deeds as brave,
And glory guards Clanricard's grave,
Sing, Oh! They died their land to save
At Aughrim's slopes and Shannon's wave."

President's Message

From: Wynne Potter

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(www.philipgray.com)

Many of us joined Maureen and Don at Bridget's to celebrate their "Half Way to Paddy's Day" celebration on September 13. (www.bridgetgallaghers.com). We like to go, do and have fun, so we hope you'll join us on road trips in the future.

If you're not a member, we'd like you'd to be so we've included a membership form in the newsletter to make it easy to join. Be sure to include your email address as that's the easiest way to communicate. And now we have the newsletter to inform our non-internet friends. Whichever you are, we welcome you!

Wynne Noble Potter
President, Irish American Club
www.irishmidmich.org



Custom Wood Darts For Sale

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Club Calendar:

TUESDAYS –

- ☞ 2nd – Social meeting, times, places and activity to be announced.
- ☞ 4th (or last) Business meeting, 7 pm. Gone Wired Café.
- ☞ All others – Darts at the Irish Pub on W. Saginaw.

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASS – Begin November 3, 7:00. Plymouth Congregational Church.

IRISH HISTORY DISCUSSION group – Begins in January on Thursday evenings.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – Sunday, December 14, 1-4 pm at the Turner Dodge House.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION – Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at Resurrection Parish Hall. More details to be announced.

Membership Form

Complete and return the form below with your check payable to the:

Irish-American Club, 2023 N Fairview, Lansing, MI 48912

800-743-9457

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State / Zip: _____
 Daytime Phone: _____
 Evening Phone: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

Individual \$12.00

New

Family \$17.00

Renewal

Life Member \$150.00

Student \$ 5.00

From time to time we publish membership lists for member use. If you wish to exclude certain information from publication, please indicate by marking the boxes to the left of information you would like excluded from publication.

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Memberships make great gifts for people interested in all things Irish. Include the information for a gift membership, along with the payment for same, and we will send their first issue immediately upon receipt.